

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6851
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USIA WASHDC
NSC WHITE HOUSE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EG US IS
SUBJECT: PRESS SATISFIED WITH ME POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: CAIRO 10954

SUMMARY: PRESS REPORTS AND EXTENSIVE EDITORIAL COMMENTARY JULY 1
EVIDENCE SATISFACTION WITH EC AND US EFFORTS REIN IN "EXTREMIST
ISRAELIS". CONTINUES ATTENTION ON ISRAEL DISCOMFITURE, DIFFERENCES
WITH US AND "ZIONIST" EFFORTS UNDERCUT US MIDDLE EAST POLICY.
PALESTINIANS NOW HOPEFUL, ARAB LEAGUE SYG OPTIMISTIC. PLEASURE WITH
ARAB POLITICAL PROGRESS OFFSET BY PRIVATE CONCERNS THAT ISOLATED
ISRAEL MAY REACT MILITARILY. END SUMMARY.
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1. ARRAY OF FRONT PAGE REPORTS AND EXTENSIVE EDITORIAL COMMENTARY
JULY 1 REFLECT MORE CLEARLY THAN PAST FEW DAYS WIDESPREAD SATISFAC-
TION WITH US AND EC APPARENT DETERMINATION TO PUSH PEACE PROCESS
FORWARD. THRUST IS CLEARLY THAT ARABS UP, ISRAEL ON WAY DOWN.

2. DAILIES ALL NOTE FAHMY MESSAGES TO EC FORMINS EXPRESSING

APPRECIATION FOR EC STATEMENT. DAILIES ALSO CARRY GISCARD'S RE-AFFIRMATION OF BELIEF THAT MOVEMENT TOWARDS PEACE MUST BE SUSTAINED OR CONTINUED TENSIONS WILL PRECIPITATE GRAVE SITUATION. EDITORIALS, HINTING AT CASUAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN "BELATED BUT POSITIVE" EC STATEMENT AND EARLIER "LESS SPECIFIC" US STATEMENTN CONCLUDE THAT US AND EC ATTEMPTING REIN IN "FRENZIED" ISRAELI LEADERSHIP "BEFORE THEY PULL TEMPLE DOWN ON THEIR HEADS." (AHRAM). US STATEMENT WAS "CLEARLY DIRECTED AT BEGIN...AND PLACES ISRAELIS IN DIFFICULT POSITION"(AKHBAR). GUMHURIYYA AND AKHBAR EDITOR SABRI BOTH SEE US AND EC STATEMENTS AS SUCCESSIVE BLOWS AGAINST ISRAELI POLICY, PROMPTED BY BEGIN ATTITUDES, WHICH "PROVE THAT WESTERN WORLD UNITED AGAINST HIS POLICY." BEGIN SEEN FACED WITH ALTERNATIVES OF ABANDONING HIS "EXTREMIST POSITION" OR PERSISTING IN IT AND CONDEMNING ISRAEL TO "DEADLY ISOLATION. HOWEVER HE CHOOSES, RESULT WILL ALWAYS BE IN FAVOR OF ARAB RIGHTS."

3. PALESTINIANS: THEIR NEW-FOUND SATISFACTION WITH US STEREO-
PHONICALLY EXPRESSED IN SEPARATE FRONT PAGE REPORTS ON ARAFAT
(BRITISH TV INTERVIEW) AND KHALID AL-HASSAN (IN PARIS) STATEMENTS
THAT PALESTINIANS HAVE "HIGH HOPES" IN PRESIDENT CARTER. "HE IS
FIRST US PRESIDENT TO SPEAK DIFFERENTLY FROM PAST PRESIDENTS
DESPITE THE CONTRADICTION AND AMBIGUITY OF HIS STATEMENTS AT
CERTAIN TIMES...HE IS FIRST TO SPEAK ABOUT PALESTINIANS AS A
PEOPLE AND ABOUT THEIR RIGHT TO A HOMELAND.

4. ARAB PRESS HAS CARRIED FEW REPORTS ON REACTIONS IN OTHER ARAB
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CAPITALS. DOES ANNOUNCE, HOWEVER, THAT ARAB LEAGUE SYG RIAD HAS
ISSUED STATEMENT WELCOMING IT AS STEP FORWARD FROM 1973 DECLARA-
TION WHICH DEMONSTRATES EUROPEAN REJECTION OF ISRAELI SECURE
BORDER THESIS.

5. ISRAEL: PAPERS CONTINUE HIGHLIGHT ISRAELI-US DIFFERENCES, ISRAELI
DISCOMFITURE AND EFFORTS UNDERMINE CARTER POLICIES. "POLITICAL
CIRCLES" IN TEL AVIV SAID TO BE CONCERNED THAT PRESIDENT VIEWS
ISRAELIS AS STUBBORN AND IS DETERMINED TO PUSH THEM TOWARDS PEACE
NEGOTIATIONS. PRESS REPORTS PRESIDENT "HAS REFUSED" INVITATION BY
AN AMERICAN ZIONIST ORGANIZATION TO ATTEND OR BE REPRESENTED AT
CONFERENCE IN TEL AVIV NEXT WEEK. ABBA EBAN, FRONT PAGES REPORT,
HAS CALLED FOR EMERGENCY KNESSET SESSION TO DISCUSS "SERIOUS
SITUATION" NOW COMPOUNDED BY EC STATEMENT.

6. ISRAEL AND SUPPORTERS ("ZIONIST OCTOPUS) AT WORK TO POISON
US PUBLIC OPINION AND SOW DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND STATE
DEPARTMENT. NEW YORK TIMES SPECIFICALLY CITED "RECKLESS ZIONISTS
MAY GO TO EXTENT OF ACCUSING CARTER OF ANTI-SEMITISM." IN CONTRAST,
PAPERS REPORT WITH QUIET SATISFACTION STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR
PRESIDENT'S ME POLICY BY SIX DEMOCRATIC SENATORS.

7. PAPERS REPORT WITHOUT COMMENT PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE
ANNOUNCEMENT THAT US HAS NOW BEEN SUFFICIENTLY SPECIFIC WITH REGARD
ITS MIDDLE EAST VIEWS AND HE WILL HAVE NO MORE TO SAY PUBLICLY
IN PERIOD PRECEDING BEGIN VISIT.

8. COMMENT: NEWS TREATMENT AND COMMENTARY INDICATE GROWING
CONFIDENCE THAT, EVEN IF NO QUICK AND FAVORABLE SETTLEMENT IN
VIEW, ARABS ARE VINDICATED AND ISRAELIS DISCREDITED IN EYES OF
THOSE WHO COUNT MOST: US AND WESTERN EUROPE. EGYPTIANS AND REST
OF ARAB LEADERSHIP WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE NEW COMFORT IN CONTENTION
THAT TIME IS ON SIDE OF ARABS NOW, POLITICALLY AS WELL AS MILITARILY
AND ECONOMICALLY. IRONICALLY, THIS PROBABLY HELPS ACCOUNT FOR
GROWING CONCERN HERE THAT ISRAEL MAY, IN DESPERATION, UNDERTAKE
PREEMPTIVE MILITARY ACTION, POSSIBLY IN SOUTH LEBANON, TO KEEP
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POT BOILING. (WE NOTE SIMILAR JORDANIAN CONCERN EXPRESSED AMMAN
3591 NOTAL) EGYPTIANS YET TO SAY SO SPECIFICALLY IN PUBLIC, ALTHOUGH
RECENT TALK FOR VIGILANCE AGAINST ISRAELI MILITARY ADVENTURES
ABOUNDS. THREE MAJOR DAILIES ALL CARRIED PROMINENTLY ASAD WARNING
THAT ISRAEL CONTEMPLATING "BLITZKRIEG" AS ANSWER TO ITS PROBLEMS.
ARAFAT STATEMENT REPORTED ABOVE ALSO CONTAINED SPECULATION THAT
LIKUD GOVERNMENT MIGHT EMBARK ON MILITARY ADVENTURE.
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